



**City of Annapolis**  
 Office of Finance  
 160 Duke of Gloucester Street  
 Annapolis, MD 21401-2517

Finance@annapolis.gov • 410-263-7952 • Fax 410-263-7529 • TDD use MD Relay or 711 • www.annapolis.gov

**Community Grant Application**  
 Deadline: January 22, 2016

Organization name We Care and Friends  
 Contact Larry Griffin Title Executive Director  
 Address 92 W. Washington Street Annapolis MD 21401  
 Phone 410-263-2874 Fax 410-263-2875 Email larry@wecareandfriends.org  
 Federal ID # 52-1956777  
 Incorporation Date 02/02/1990 501(c)(3) Registration date 11/03/1977  
 Project title We Care and Friends Community Grant  
 Project location Stanton Center 92. W. Washington Street Annapolis MD 21401

Amount requested	\$	<u>57,360.00</u>
Other funds	\$	<u>14,340.00</u>
Total project amount	\$	<u>71,700.00</u>

**Certification**

*"I certify that I have reviewed this application and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information provided in this application is true."*

Larry Griffin February 5, 2016  
 Signature of Chief Executive Officer Date

Print name Larry Griffin Title Executive Director  
 Address 92 W. Washington Street Annapolis MD 21401  
 Phone 410-263-2874 Fax 410-263-2875 Email larry@wecareandfriends.org



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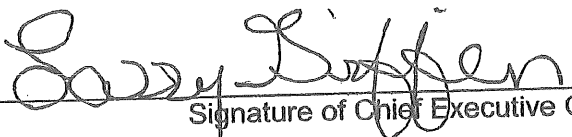
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provide a brief summary of your project. Please be sure to include the following items: purpose of the project, number of people to be served, and how the city grant funds will be used.

**We Care and Friends (WCF)** is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit community support organization based in the Stanton Community Center in Annapolis, Maryland. Our mission statement reads: *We Care and Friends is dedicated to supporting the building blocks to create strong families and communities in areas affected by drugs, poverty, and crime in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Maryland.*

As a former addict, Executive Director Larry Griffin recognizes how deeply the citizens of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County affected by the drugs, poverty, and crime in the area. In 1990, he founded We Care and Friends to affect change at the grass roots level-by strengthening families and building community among the County's most under-served population. Through community engagement, we build trust and relationships with residents, filling basic human needs during crisis, and serving as a conduit to the resources they need to break the cycles of poverty and drug addiction. WCF fulfills its mission through four types of programming 1) substance abuse treatment; 2) services for the homeless; 3) programs for youth at risk, and 4) community building arts and social events. Funds derived from the Annapolis City Community grant will be applied to the following two initiatives:

**Substance Abuse Treatment:** WCF will assist approximately 60 clients (35 men/25 women) per year who have no insurance or financial resources per year gain access to inpatient drug abuse treatment, and provide access to other drug treatment needs, including procuring detox services and assistance in locating sober living accommodations.

**Programs for the Homeless:** WCF will provide emergency, short-term assistance to the homeless of Annapolis, and to those residents facing immediate eviction, assisting 300-500 citizens.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY

If you received Community Grant funds last year, please evaluate progress you have made in implementing those projects. Please discuss any factors that may have hindered your progress.

In 2015, We Care and Friends received \$30,000 through the Annapolis City Community Grant Program. With these funds, We Care provided more than 300 hotel nights for the homeless in crisis; assisted approximately 200 families avoid eviction, and provided temporary overnight crisis housing for another 75. In terms of providing assistance in empowering those with no insurance or resources to access drug treatment, these funds enabled us to:

- Provide 19 Annapolis residents with short term substance abuse treatment;

- Send 42 citizens to long term residential programs; and

- Assist 15 residents with securing sober living housing after completion of drug treatment programs.

WCF drug treatment assistance programming ran into new financial challenges this year associated with implementation of the Affordable Care Act, because many of our clients are uninsured. Hospitals, clinics and detox centers can no longer accept detox clients at no cost or at all if the client has no insurance. Detox is in most cases necessary before our clients can enter a rehab program. In 2015, WCF partnered with Hope House in Laurel to treat our clients. As a result, rather than procuring donated services, as of January 1, 2015, we must pay \$350 per client for a 7-day detox program.

Also new in 2015 are expenses related to helping short-term treatment clients from Hope House transition to a recovery house. Relapse rates after successful treatment decrease markedly when the person transfers from treatment to a sober/recovery house. We are fortunate to be able to partner with many of these houses to transition the client from treatment back into society. In some cases where a client has no funds upon release, we will pay for the first week's rent, ranging from \$140-\$180 per week.

Two other factors limit WCF's further success with the issue of substance abuse. First is inadequate funding for this program. Demand exceeds our capacity, and each year, our organization struggles to find the money to send clients to treatment. The second is lack of a safe haven where people can remain during the time between deciding they are ready for treatment and the time they can be transported to the facility. During this time period, they may need to gather prescriptions, identification documents, or resolve outstanding legal matters. During this period, if not removed from their familiar environment, addicts may lose resolve and return to previous use patterns.

## RATIONALE (20 Points)

Describe the issue or problem to be addressed including the size and/or severity of the problem. Provide the demographic data and geographic information used to determine the extent of the problem.

### **Substance Abuse Treatment:**

In 2007, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) estimated that 23,208 Anne Arundel County residents were in need of substance abuse treatment (Anne Arundel County, Maryland Strategic Plan for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2007). Since then, the rapidly increasing use of opioids in the County has reached epidemic proportions. The number of County residents visiting hospital emergency departments (EDs) due to heroin-related poisoning increased by 161% from 2010 to 2013, and in 2015, County Executive Steve Schuh announced an executive order declaring a county-wide heroin public health emergency. He directed agencies to use "all best efforts" to eradicate the use of heroin in Anne Arundel County. He has declared the situation a public health emergency, and created a Heroin Task Force to assess the problem and identify strategies to address the issue.

This dramatic increase in heroin use comes on the heels of a similar epidemic of prescription drug abuse. Unfortunately, local resources are limited, and most treatment facilities are at capacity. WCF has proved to be able to leverage relationships and funding to maximize impact on both individuals negatively affected by drug abuse, and on the community. The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that every \$1 invested in addiction treatment programs returns \$4-\$7 to the community in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, and law enforcement. Calculations that include health care savings can increase the return to \$12. (Understanding Drug Abuse and Addiction: What Science Says, NIDA, on-line presentation)

Once they have committed to recovery, clients may choose between short-term treatment programs of 28-30 days, outpatient treatment programs or long-term programs of greater than 6 months. No long-term programs exist in the local area. Programs of this type can run upwards of \$20,000. For those with health insurance coverage this may be affordable, but most people in this situation don't have health insurance and won't be able to pay for it. A few free or inexpensive programs exist locally, but open beds are in short supply. An article last year in the Annapolis Capital quoted the acting Director of Pathways, a substance abuse facility of Anne Arundel Medical Center, saying there are 40 in-patient beds, "and many times there are many times when we don't have beds available." In the same article, it was noted that the County's methadone program has a waiting list of 100 clients. (Surge In Heroin Use, Overdoses Hitting Close To Home, Capital-Gazette, February 9, 2014.) Where does this leave people who are prepared to enter treatment but don't have the opportunity to do so? Hope House, a treatment facility in Crownsville MD requires that clients have health insurance and costs over \$10,000. WCF Clients generally do not have health insurance, and do not qualify for this program.

### **Programs for the Homeless**

The 2014 Anne Arundel County Homeless Report (the latest currently available) listed 2078 individuals as receiving homeless services during that year. However, this number could be significantly higher, because of situational factors including weather, and the propensity of the homeless to "fly under the radar," because of legal, domestic, substance abuse, or mental health issues. It is also important to note that the capacity of homeless shelters in this county is significantly lower than this number-under 100 beds are available on a regular basis. WCF has observed an increase in single mothers and children without housing. Opportunities for this group are especially limited in the Annapolis area, although Sarah's House and limited space at Light House Shelter are options. Issues of transportation to these facilities and the timing of the request may leave these families with no place to stay for a couple of days. Unmarried couples who need or want to stay together are also underserved by these services, as are people who are actively using alcohol or drugs, and those with medical conditions making it impossible for them to stay at a shelter. For these groups, there are few options. Please note that We Care and Friends does not provide regular housing for the homeless, but rather crisis services on an as-needed or weather contingent basis. Our organization provides food and medicine, as well as housing for individuals who don't qualify for county shelters or when shelters are full, such as during extreme weather events. WCF fills a critical gap in existing programs for the homeless in Annapolis, and this grant will enable us to provide short-term crisis housing for approximately 100 families, as well as temporary eviction prevention for 30 families.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION (30 Points)

Please give a detailed description of the program or project you are proposing. Please include the group of persons you plan to serve and the number of expected participants, the activities or services you will provide and location.

**Substance Abuse Treatment:** Clients of this program most often volunteer, asking for assistance. Others are referred through family, friends, Department of Social Services, law enforcement, attorneys, judges and the court system, the Anne Arundel Medical Center or churches. WCF's presence on the street and established presence in the community make it an approachable resource for treatment. Often our best reference are program alumna who are maintaining sobriety, are actively employed, and can bear witness to the untenable life as an addict and the power of recovery. Once committed to treatment, a client talks with an intake counselor who documents information. Clients are escorted to any necessary medical and legal appointments, and helped in obtaining a social security card and photo ID. If needed, WCF will pay for a week-long stay at Hope House to detox.

WCF ran into new challenges this year, associated with implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which has been financially detrimental to us, because many of our clients are uninsured. Hospitals, clinics and detox centers can no longer accept detox clients at no cost or at all if the client has no insurance. Detox is in most cases necessary before our clients can enter a rehab program. In 2015, WCF partnered with Hope House in Laurel to treat our clients. Thus, rather than procuring donated services, as of January 1, 2015, we must pay \$350 per client for a 7-day detox program. Ultimately, clients are personally driven to the bus station and placed on a bus to their treatment facility with their admitting paperwork and a check to the treatment facility in hand.

Also new in 2015 are expenses related to helping short-term treatment clients from Hope House transition to a recovery house. Relapse rates after successful treatment decrease markedly when the person transfers from treatment to a sober/recovery house. We are fortunate to be able to partner with many of these houses to transition the client from treatment back into society. In some cases where a client has no funds upon release, we will pay for the first week's rent, ranging from \$140-\$180 per week.

**Programs for the Homeless:** WCF receives client referrals from City or County Police and Fire Departments, Department of Social Services, and even Light House Shelter. Some clients find WCF on their own. WCF staff connect individuals and families with options such as AA County's Winter Relief Program, DSS, Light House Shelter or Sarah's House. If those and other options have been exhausted, WCF will house them in a local hotel.

During weather emergency events such as we experienced in January 2016, WCF opens Stanton Center as an emergency shelter. For those with no other options, this can make the difference between life and death. A small amount (\$1500) is included in this grant request to ensure that basic necessities of hygiene are on hand at the Stanton Center, in case of its use as an emergency shelter.

Describe the methodology (or approach) for the proposed program/project, e.g., the procedures, tasks, techniques, or tools you will use to develop the program

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Explain how this proposal relates to the organization's mission, goals and/or strategic plan, and other activities planned for this year.

We Care's clients are the County's most vulnerable residents. 12.7% of Annapolis residents (2010 Census) and 30% of the city's children live below the poverty line. Minorities are statistically over-represented in this demographic, as single-parent families. Affordable housing in the area is geographically clustered around the city's public housing projects. Rates of crime and chemical dependency are high. Social isolation, as well as other factors such as illiteracy, language barriers, drug/alcohol dependency, and a lack of trust for authority figures can deter residents from seeking help through social service agencies.

Larry Griffin, currently serving as Executive Director, began We Care and Friends in 1990. He is a native of the area, and has walked in the shoes of those we serve. Larry was an active drug user for 28 years, including two years of living homeless on the streets of Annapolis. He became sober in 1987.

As a former addict, Larry recognizes how deeply the citizens of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County affected by the drugs, poverty, and crime in the area. In 1990, he founded We Care and Friends to affect change at the grass roots level-by strengthening families and building community among the County's most underserved population. Through community engagement, we build trust and relationships with residents, filling basic human needs during crisis, and serving as a conduit to the resources they need to break the cycles of poverty and drug addiction.

The projects included in this grant represent program delivery of two critical components of the mission of We Care and Friends:

- 1) To provide access to drug abuse treatment for those with no money or resources; and
- 2) To provide emergency resources and crisis housing for the homeless.

The long-term relationships maintained by We Care and Friends as well as its location embedded in the community serve to strengthen our ability to serve our clients. The availability of our staff and services contribute greatly to our success. We Care and Friends has provided these services to the community for over 20 years and positively impact the lives of thousands of Annapolis residents.

We Care and Friends changes lives, and in so doing creates healthier families and a stronger community.

### TIMELINE (10 Points)

Provide a timeline for implementation and all program/project activities for the project.

Date	Activity
July-Sept 2016	Funds received. Substance abuse treatment program and short term hotel stays for the homeless continue
Oct-Dec 2016	Substance abuse treatment program and short term hotel stays for the homeless continue
Jan-March 2017	Substance abuse treatment program continues/seek funds to maximize winter capacity for homeless resources
April-June 2017	Substance abuse treatment program and short term hotel stays for the homeless continue

Please indicate how you have determined that the timeline is achievable.

We Care and Friends has provided access to substance abuse treatment and homeless assistance for two decades. These programs have been in place for many years, and are core elements of the organization's mission. Strong and well-developed relationships with agencies and the community ensure that referrals will continue, and We Care's Executive Director, licensed clinician, and volunteer staff commit to long hours addressing clients' needs.

It is important to note that in 2014 WCF recognized the need to build organizational capacity to provide service to the less advantaged and homeless in Annapolis. Because we have a dedicated staff and volunteer base, WCF has been able to focus on what we do best-providing assistance to the most vulnerable citizens of Annapolis. Following a reorganization of the Board of Directors and securing additional volunteer help, our organization is implementing more formal organizational structures and adopting better data recording processes to quantify outcomes of programmatic efforts. With these systems into place, and new headquarters in the Stanton Center, WCF is becoming a stronger, more resilient organization, equipped to provide needed services to the Annapolis community.

Describe the organization's ability to implement the request.

We Care and Friends has a proven track record of leveraging available funds to achieve the maximum community-wide impact. WCF, in 2015, had an operating budget of approximately \$171,000. This was augmented by a conservatively estimated \$125,000 of in-kind donations. This outpouring of food, goods, and services, is testimonial to the support that We Care and Friends generates throughout the Annapolis community.

Our basic metrics are impressive-in 2015, We Care provided:

- 18,000+ meals for the homeless
- Thanksgiving dinner for 3000
- Christmas for 150 families
- Access to drug treatment for 75
- 300+ hotel nights for homeless in crisis
- Summer educational program for 35 at-risk youth
- Provided counseling and access to basic needs (food, clothing, medications, assistance with employment) for 2000+ homeless citizens of Annapolis.

With a strategic plan for development, expanded Board of Directors and recent move to newer, more professional headquarters in the Stanton Center, our organization is poised to better deliver the resources that are needed by Annapolis's poorest citizens.

## EVALUATION (20 Points)

Clearly state the specific, goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes of the project/program.

Goals	Objectives	Measurable Outcomes
Substance Abuse Treatment Programs-	Engage up to 60 people in treatment Provide access to long and short term substance abuse treatment programs	Track # of clients approaching WCF for assistance, # entering and completing programs, and # requiring assistance with detox and sober living programs.
Homeless Assistance-	Provide temporary hotel stays, eviction prevention assistance and emergency shelter on an as-needed basis	Track # of hotel stays, # and amounts of eviction assistance, and # housed during emergency weather shelter situations

Describe the impact (long-term effects) you expect will be produced by program/project outcomes.

The mission of We Care and Friends is to strengthen families and communities negatively impacted by poverty, crime, and drugs. Addiction harms not only the addict, but also his or her family, and the entire community. Assisting residents to access long term drug treatment-the evidence informed best practice for overcoming addiction-is an important strategy for our organization to ameliorate the negative effects of drug abuse in the community.

Our services for the homeless, and most specifically the emergency housing program, specifically provide our most vulnerable citizens with a basic human need during a crisis situation. This a very important intervention point at which We Care and other agencies have an opportunity to further engage, to help resolve other areas of need for the individual need. When the client feels safe, it is possible for our staff to assess other factors, such as the individual or family's physical and/or mental health, and provide needed resources or access to treatment.

Both of these programs enhance the health and well being of the individual, the family, and by extension the community. By supporting and elevating families, the staff and Board of Directors of We Care and Friends hopes to equip parents and caregivers with the needed skills and resources to raise physically and emotionally healthy children, and a more positive environment in which to raise them.



## BUDGET DOCUMENTS (20 Points)

Include a detailed program budget that includes expenses, city funds requested and pending sources of support. Please use the attached Program/Project Budget Format.

Outline the organizations plans for securing funding from sources other than those provided by the City of Annapolis and indicate how City of Annapolis' funds will be used to leverage a request for, or use of, other grant funds.

### **Substance Abuse Treatment Programs**

Out-of-State Male inpatient @ \$750/pp x 35 men = \$22,500

Out-of-State Women @ \$400/pp x 25 women = \$10,000

\*In-state Detoxification and Short-Term treatment @ \$350 x 30 = \$10,500

\*Recovery House @ (\$140 to \$180 avg.) x 15 = \$2250

### **Subtotal Substance Abuse Treatment Programs \$45,250**

\*The substantial increase in our substance abuse treatment costs for 2016 reflects the additional service we must pay for due to implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

### **Programs for the Homeless**

Hotel nights @ 200 (up to 3 per family) X \$50 avg/night = \$7,000

Rental assistance @ \$200 avg/family X 30 families = \$6,000

Emergency shelter supplies (cleaning, laundry, person hygiene products) = \$1,500

### **Subtotal Homeless Programs \$14,500**

### **Subtotal both programs \$ 59,750**

**Administrative and overhead costs (20% x \$59,750) = \$11,950**

### **Total = \$71,700**

**Grant request = 80% of this total, or \$57,360**

We Care and Friends is requesting 80% of the cost of its substance abuse treatment and homeless programs through this Annapolis City Community Grant. The remaining \$14,340 will be leveraged from private sources, through fundraising events and from individual donations. We Care and Friends also receives grants to support other programming-particularly the School on the Water summer camp-from community partners.

## PROJECT BUDGET

Please complete the following budget chart for this project, including all budget items, the total budget for each item, and the funds that are being requested for each line item.

Budget item	City funds requested	Other funds	Source of Other funds (Federal, State, Private)	Is "Other funding" committed or requested?	Total project cost
Salaries/Benefits (list each position)					
Executive Director (45K/yr)	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 1,800.00	Private	Requested	\$ 9,000.00
Admin Assistant (25K/yr)	1,600.00	400.00	Private	Requested	2,000.00
Contract Services					
Rent/Leasing Costs					
Utilities/Telephone (please specify)					
Equipment					
Insurance					
Office Supplies	760.00	190.00	Private	Requested	950.00
Printing/Postage					
Audit/Accounting					
Other (please describe)					
Drug Treatment Services	36,200.00	9,050.00	Private	Requested	45,250.00
Hotel Nights for Homeless	5,600.00	1,400.00	Private	Requested	7,000.00
Rental Assistance	4,800.00	1,200.00	Private	Requested	6,000.00
Hygiene Supplies	1,200.00	300.00	Private	Requested	1,500.00
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 57,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,340.00</b>			<b>\$ 71,700.00</b>